DEMAND XXII—CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant not exceeding Rs. 1,400 under Demand XXII—Co-operative Department.

I do not think it is necessary for me at this stage to deal at any great length about the present position of the Co-operative movement here. It has not been working on proper lines for some years past. Although it was started with the best of intentions it is on the decline from day to day. But honourable members of this house will agree that the only organisation which could contribute something substantial towards rehabilitating our economic life particularly among the agriculturists, for developing cottage industries and the marketing of agricultural products is the Co-operative movement. The question of putting the movement on its feet again is engaging the attention of the leading co-operators of this country and it has also been exercising the mind of Government for a long time. On 8-12-1116, the leading co-operators of this country met in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall and passed resolutions requesting the Government to come to the rescue of the movement by rendering financial aid and by exercising the necessary control for the working of the societies. A resolution was also passed to the effect that a standing advisory committee be constituted to help the Registrar in the preparation of a rehabilitation scheme and also take such other steps for the uplift of the movement as may be deemed necessary from time to time. These resolutions were submitted to Government on the 1st of September 1941. They sanctioned the appointment of a Committee with the specific direction that the report should be submitted within a period of three months. The Committee have already met twice till now. It is composed of very distinguished co-operators and I can testify to the House that the members of the Committee have been working extremely hard in this matter. It is to meet the travelling expenses of the members of the Committee that this demand has been put forward. I request that the house will be pleased to give its assent to this demand.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the report of the Committee be published for the information of the members?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: It is not a question of publishing the report of the Committee. The Committee have been asked to prepare a practical and workable scheme and that is being done.

PRESIDENT: Because this is a matter in which the public are interested, that question will be considered when the Government gets such information.

The question before the House is that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 1,400 under De nand XXII—Co-operative Department for meeting the expenditure in connection with the work of the Co-operative Advisory Committee.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The grant was made.

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